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INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 004982

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DEPARTMENT FOR P, EUR, NEA, EAP, PM, IO AND NSC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/16/2016
TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [LE](#) [TH](#)
SUBJECT: THAILAND: UNIFIL DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: SECSTATE 134133

Classified By: Political Counselor Susan M. Sutton. Reason 1.4 (b and d)

¶1. (C) On August 16, PolOff delivered reftel demarche to Paisit Boonparlit, Political Counselor for the MFA's North American and South Pacific Affairs Division. Paisit said that the MFA had begun in-house discussions about Thailand's possible response to the situation in Lebanon during the week of August 7. He noted August 15 articles in the Bangkok media which quoted caretaker Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon as confirming that Thai representatives would join an upcoming UN meeting in New York to discuss a PKO deployment in support of UNIFIL.

¶2. (C) Paisit had no official response to our demarche. Informally, he suggested his Government would probably have three issues to resolve prior to any deployment. First, it is unclear whether Thailand can legally send peacekeepers anywhere while the government remains in caretaker status. Second, it would be helpful to know what sort of technical assistance (i.e. airlift) the USG could offer. Finally, and to Paisit's mind most important, it would be very important to confirm whether other ASEAN nations, especially Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia, will participate in the UNIFIL mission.

¶3. (C) Paisit suggested that a more formal response to our demarche would be coming later.
BOYCE